



Carthage Elementary School District #317

210 S. Adams - Carthage, IL 62321

Phone (217) 357-3922 - Fax (217) 357-6793

www.cesd317.org

Dear Parents/Guardians,

1/18/2021

What Happened?

Over the weekend, a teacher was working in the classroom at Carthage Middle School and accidentally broke a mercury thermometer. The teacher immediately notified administration who then informed the district's maintenance director. They realized this to be a hazardous spill incident, and the district's maintenance director notified EH&S. The building was evacuated and access to the building was immediately restricted. There were no students in the building and only one staff member at the time of the incident.

Mercury is hazardous due to a low but significant vapor pressure under ambient conditions (0.002 mm Hg at 25 °C / 77 °F). Hence, it may create a health hazard for personnel in the immediate area.

When EH&S arrived they assessed the situation and realized that this may require specialized hazardous material cleanup. The district is working closely with EH&S and EPA. Students and staff are allowed in the building and school will remain in attendance as scheduled. The classroom in which the incident happened is secured and off limits until the district receives clearance from EH&S and EPA. During this time the students will attend class in an alternative classroom at CMS. As always, we will keep you informed as we learn more.

Sincerely,

Miss Rynne Nason
Principal
Carthage Middle School

Mrs. Vicki Hardy
Interim Superintendent
Carthage E.S.D. #317

Carthage Primary School
Phone (217) 357-9202
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Carthage Middle School
Phone (217) 357-3914
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